

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-41 and 46-109 are pending. Claims 1 and 42-45 have been canceled. claims 3, 15, 16 and 107-109 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

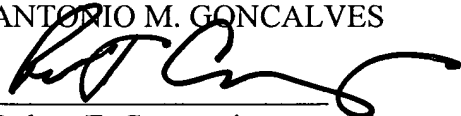
Claims 1, 3, 15, 19, 42-45, 107 and 109 were rejected in the office action. Claims 1 and 42-45 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3, 15, 19 107 and 109 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 2. Claim 16 has been amended into independent form, incorporating the features of claims 1 and 3. There was no specific rejection of claim 108 in the office action. However, since claim 108 depended from rejected claim 1, claim 108 has been amended into independent form, incorporating the features of claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments place all the claims in condition for allowance. Applicant requests an early indication of allowability of this application.

If the Examiner believes that direct communication with Applicant's representative will facilitate examination of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,  
ANTONIO M. GONCALVES

By:

  
Robert E. Cannuscio  
Registration No. 36,469  
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP  
One Logan Square  
18<sup>th</sup> & Cherry Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996  
Tel: (215) 988-3303  
Fax: (215) 988-2757  
Attorney for Applicant